

the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

November, 2015

FCC TAKES STEPS TO FACILITATE MOBILE BROADBAND AND NEXT GENERATION WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES IN SPECTRUM ABOVE 24 GHZ

WASHINGTON, October 22, 2015 – The FCC took steps today to maintain United States leadership in wireless by proposing new rules for wireless broadband in wireless frequencies above 24 GHz. These proposed rules are an opportunity to move forward on creating a regulatory environment in which these emerging next-generation mobile technologies – such as so-called 5G mobile service – can potentially take hold and deliver benefits to consumers, businesses, and the U.S. economy.

With today's action, the FCC is taking steps to unlock the mobile broadband and unlicensed potential of spectrum at the frontier above 24 GHz. It was previously assumed physical and tech limitations could not support mobile service in these bands. New tech developments may allow the use of these high frequencies for mobile applications – like 5G service – with significantly more capacity and faster speeds for next generation mobile service.

Building off of years of successful spectrum policy, this NPRM proposes to create new flexible use service rules in the 28 GHz, 37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 64-71 GHz bands. The NPRM proposes to make these bands available using a variety of authorization schemes, including traditional wide area

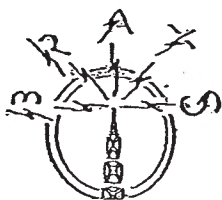
licensing, unlicensed, and a shared approach that provides access for both local area and wide area networks.

In addition, the NPRM provides a path for a variety of platforms and uses, including satellite uses, to coexist and expand through market-based mechanisms. The NPRM seeks extensive comment on the service, licensing, and technical rules for facilitating flexible use in these bands. Finally, the NPRM seeks comment on other bands above 24 GHz that may be considered in the future.

By taking this action now, the Commission begins to establish a framework to proceed in parallel with technological development in order to keep pace and help future mobile and other wireless technologies flourish.

Action by the Commission October 22, 2015 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 15-138). Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel approving and issuing separate statements; Commissioners Pai and O'Rielly approving in part and dissenting in part and issuing separate statements.

GN Docket No. 14-177; RM-11664; WT Docket No. 10-112; IB Docket No. 97-95



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The award-winning monthly
publication of The BRATS.
Items herein may be reprinted
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

Some Thoughts

We apologize off the lateness of this issue.
We were waiting to see if we had a new
Meeting site. Wwe still have 3 possibilities
But nothing definite yet. Please listen to the
]weekly news bulletin on Saturday t 1 PM
and on our traffic and info net on Mondays
at 9 PM. We will also post the site on the
BRATS home page. Hang loose. We will let
you know.

73 Mayer,
W3GXX

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The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282

A non-profit organization under section 501 (c (3)
of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit
corporation in the State of Maryland

Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

Email: brats@bratsatv.org

Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 PM at the
Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, MD or
The Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Rd.

President: Oryx Gazaella, K0RYX

Vice Pres.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Shērwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand alone:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT=5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

ATV repeaters W3WCQ

inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV

Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV

Sat. 1 PM Weekly News Bulle

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2015

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2016

W3MSR, K9FXV

BRATS MEETINGS

Second Monday of each month
7:00 PM, site to be determined

Listen to the weekly News
Bulletin on 147.03/R

Saturday at 1 PM

Join us for the weekly

Traffic and info Net on

Mondays at 9PM on 147.03/R

BRATS

Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society MINUTES of the 12 October 2015 Monthly Meeting

Oryx, K0RYX, chaired the meeting held at Greene Turtle, Owings Mills.

/REPORTS

- Minutes: Secretary's Minutes from the August meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report submitted. Grant moneys have been spent and we await reporting instructions from the grantor.
- Repeater/Equipment: - replaced 2M NW, NE sites' Rx modules. Very sensitive; now pager intermod at NE site; Cavity to be put in place to attenuate. Bob, WA3SWA, suggested pager owner could put filter in place. N site Rx replacement pending.
220MHz separated from linked system; now has 2 Rx sites, one Tx site.
Replaced HDs with SDDs on PCs at 2 sites (NW, NE).
1st DR-1X in place on UHF; mode is Auto. WIRES-X i/f on order.
ATV - recommend new Intuitive Circuits unit to address controller problem.
Opens possibility for DTV transition. One capability: 440 analog input -> 900MHz digital output. Fred, K3TAZ, submitted proposal. Proposed discussion with other groups doing DTV to learn successes, failures, and user transition experience. Goal is to support "ATVFusion" path: both 440MHz analog and digital input produce 900MHz digital out and 440MHz selectable analog/digital output. Possible update from Fred (presentation) in November.
Proposal on table for cost sharing new preamp between BRATS & CATS;
Kenny, K3UQQ, agreed to address to CATS.
Tower trailer repaired; doors now close as they should.

/OLD BUSINESS

- Meeting Venue: Oryx working with Liberty Rd. Vol. FD (10100 Liberty Rd., 21133) for meetings. Possible site for November meeting.
- Membership System: will be addressed after JOTA now that repeater work is mostly done. Neil, W3ZQI, offered assistance.
- NE Repeater Room: discussion with new contact being attempted. Need email address.
- Grant sources - Kevin following up.
- Events: Challenge Walk - Event completed; primary challenge was the heavy rain.

/NEW BUSINESS

none

Ted, WA3AER,
Secretary

FCC Seeking User Comments On New Beta Website:

As part of an ongoing research and design project "to dramatically improve the usability and functionality" of its website, the FCC has debuted a new prototype website <https://prototype.fcc.gov/> and wants to know what users think about it. The FCC's 2011 website re-design was not well received, and the Commission has continued to maintain its previous, much older website design in tandem with the newer one.

"You spoke, we listened," FCC Chief Information Officer David Bray said in an October 9 blog post <https://www.fcc.gov/blog/your-feedback-building-better-fccgov>. "[W]e built a new beta (ie test) version of FCC.gov based on your input, and we need your feedback again. Building upon the foundation of extensive user research done earlier this year -- and coupled with additional input we will receive during this beta period -- the new FCC.gov will be more useful and accessible to FCC stakeholders." Bray stressed that "old content and features" remain available on the current FCC website <http://www.fcc.gov> "while we perfect the new site. Bray explained that the new beta website is Drupal <https://www.drupal.com/>-based and responsive, and the display will optimize based upon the device being used to view the site.

"The beta website is also connected to our document databases, EDOCS https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/edocsLink.do and ECFS <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>, via application programming interfaces (APIs). The APIs allow real-time EDOCS and ECFS updates to display in Headlines <https://prototype.fcc.gov/news-events/headlines> and Most Active Proceedings <https://prototype.fcc.gov/rulemaking/most-active-proceedings>," Bray said. "FCC applications will also be updated and increasingly cloud-based, similar to our new Consumer Help Desk <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>."

Bray said all content on the current FCC website has been migrated to the new Drupal-based site. The FCC IT staff is now integrating that content into what Bray called "new information architecture," which, he said, would offer additional and improved ways of accessing and interacting with the website's content.

He said that based on additional feedback the FCC receives during the beta website's "extended" testing period, "we intend to complete the switch to the new site fully later this fall."

Users can submit their comments and suggested bug fixes by using a web form <https://prototype.fcc.gov/eform/submit/feedback?destination=home> or e-mail WebFeedback@fcc.gov.

CME: THIS IS ONLY A TEST BUT . . .

Imagine a massive coronal mass ejection and an equally massive impact on the HF bands. A blackout, even. It's only an exercise, but it could just as easily happen, and between Nov. 7 and Nov. 10, hams will be dealing with just that disaster scenario. The Military Auxiliary Radio System will work with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service during a simulated CME event, helping radio operators train for a major CME and how to handle its impact on HF propagation.

Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, told the ARRL that the exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following such an event. English said some active duty military groups will join about 50 ARES/RACES affiliates for the drill, which will not only include a blackout of the radio bands but infrastructure damage. Radio amateurs, as well as ARES and RACES teams, can contact MARS if they wish to participate. Emails can be directed to MARS at mars.exercises@gmail.com (ARRL, MARS)

ARRL DX BULLETIN

SVALBARD, JW. LA3TR and LA8BCA are now QRV as JW3TR and JW8BCA, respectively. No word on how long they will be there. QSL via home calls.

BELARUS, EU. In celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, special event station EV70UN will be QRV from Minsk City until November 20. QSL via EW1NY.

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Nov 7-8	Ukrainian DX Contest
Nov 7-9	NA Collegiate ARC, CW ARRL Sweepstakes, CW DARC 10-Meter Digital
Nov 8	QRP Fox Hunt
Nov 11, 13	JIDX Contest, Phone
Nov 14-15	10-10 Int'l Fall Digital OK/OM DX contest, CW CQ WE Contest Kentucky QSO Party
Nov 18, 20	QRP Fox Hunt
Nov 20	YO Int'l PSK31 Contest
Nov 21-22	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB
Nov 28-29	ARRL EME Contest CQ DX Contest, CW

Parity Act House Cosponsors Now In Triple Digits!

The Amateur Radio Parity Act <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> of 2015 bill in the US House (H.R. 1301) now has 106 cosponsors! ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, credited ARRL members "who understand the importance of the legislation" with making it possible to reach that milestone.

"They have signed letters at hamfests and conventions all over the country, at booths staffed by Directors, Vice Directors, Section Managers, and other ARRL officials," President Craigie said. Backing up those efforts have been recent personal visits to Capitol Hill by ARRL Directors Dick Isely, W9GIG, and Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, as well as by General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. The 100th cosponsor of H.R. 1301 was Rep Larry Bucshon [R-IN], who signed aboard on October 16. Six more cosponsors added their names on October 20 and 21. They are Reps Steve Chabot, [R-OH], Mike Bost [R-IL], and Frank LoBiondo [R-NJ]; Katherine Clark [D-MA]; Thomas MacArthur [R-NJ], and Sheila Jackson Lee [D-TX].

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would direct the FCC to extend its Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules relating to "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Service communications to include private land use restrictions. There are two bills, one in the US House and one in the US Senate. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced H.R. 1301 on March 4 with 12 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. US Sen Roger Wicker <http://www.wicker.senate.gov/public/> (R-MS) introduced S. 1685 into the US Senate on June 25, with Sen Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) as the original cosponsor.

The ARRL recently introduced a "Clarity on Parity" video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMY-5U1cJ6E>, and not only has it been made available on Capitol Hill, it would make an informative Amateur Radio club meeting program. A "Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity" document <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Clarity%20on%20Parity.pdf> stresses many of the same points.

The ARRL Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> provides more information and explains how members can become involved.

BARC VE Exams

Our Savior Lutheran Church
141 Lavern Ave. Landsdowne
Register at 1:30; exams at 2:00
Saturdays: Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct. 3,
Nov 7, Dec. 5 ; no one admitted
after exams begin; walk-ins okay.

A special event:

To commemorate Guglielmo Marconi's 120th anniversary of his first wireless message, members of the ARI Lecce continue operating under the special call sign IY7LE until Dec. 31. They will also use IY7LE/P from different locations for the different Italian diplomas. Details on awards and diplomas can be found on www.arilecce.it under "Contest and Diplomas." QSL via the Bureau, direct or LoTW.

Palmyra DXpedition to Sign On as K5P

When the Palmyra DXpedition gets under way in January 2016, operators will be using the call sign K5P. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been granted permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll.

Palmyra and Jarvis Islands (KH5) ranks number 9 on ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List. "After many months of planning, securing permits, and negotiating contracts with US Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy, we are quickly approaching the much anticipated DXpedition to Palmyra," said co-leaders Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Lou Dietrich, N2TU, in a recent news release.

A team of 12 operators will operate five stations over a 14 day period, from January 11 through January 26. Visit the Palmyra 2016 website to learn more.

PARADISE LOST?

Desecheo Island, 14 miles off the coast of Puerto Rico, has held a longstanding spot on the radio amateur's list of Most Wanted DXs. Part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, the island, known to amateurs as KP5, has been a notable part of the KP1-5 Project's successful DXpeditions for years.

Now, it seems, the island is also most wanted by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. According to a published report, Puerto Rico's House of Representatives has approved two measures requesting the island's release from United States jurisdiction.

The news of the vote was reported in the Oct. 26 edition of the Puerto Rican newspaper, El Nuevo Dia. Hernandez Lopez's remarks to fellow lawmakers, translated in the newspaper's online story, say in part: QUOTE"Our desire is to provide the additional space western area for sightseeing, this time, environmental tourism that allows people to enjoy the natural attractions." The measures were approved in the House, 27-21. Puerto Rico's Senate will now consider the matter. As for the world's DXers, they'll be listening too.

(EL NUEVO DIA, ANGEL SANTANA-DIAZ, WP3GW via ARNewsline)

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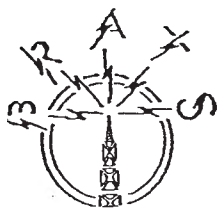
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THE FOX RETURNS, SAREX MAKES AN EXIT

Speaking of things getting back to normal, the Fox-1A (AO-85) Transponder is back in business. Launched on Oct. 8, it proved to be popular immediately with radio amateurs, who made ample use of its transponder until it was taken out of service for a period of testing and evaluations on Oct. 19. It is back as of Friday, Oct. 23.

AMSAT Vice President for Engineering Jerry Buxton, N-ZERO-J-Y (N0JY) reports that version 1.01 of the FoxTelem telemetry software is also available as a patch release. The patch and the full FoxTelem program are available in Windows, Mac, and Linux versions. Download of the software are available at www.amsat.org

Meanwhile, AMSAT'S SAREX reflector will be closed as of Sunday, Nov. 1, according to AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. SAREX's functions will be folded into the AMSAT-BB list. Amateurs subscribed to both SAREX and AMSAT-BB need to take no action but existing SAREX-only subscriptions will not automatically be carried over (AMSAT, ARRL)



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November, 2015

BRATS MEETINGS

Second Monday of each month
7:00 PM . Site to be determined

BARC Meetings

First Wednesday at 7 PM
Wegman's Hunt Valley
Upstairs Dining Room

Other Clubs

CARA

4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM
Columbia Gateway Center
Room 401; Columbia, MD

AARC

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Davidsonville Family Rec.
Center, 3789 Queen Anne
Bridge Rd. Davidsonville

Use of 146.52 MHz FM Simplex Frequency Cleared for ARRL Contests

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee earlier this year unanimously adopted a recommendation from its VHF and Above Revitalization Committee to remove the rule prohibiting the use of 146.52 MHz simplex for making contest contacts. The change becomes effective in 2016, starting with the ARRL January VHF Contest. The VHF and Above Revitalization Committee concluded that the restriction was no longer necessary. The committee felt that permitting the use of 146.52 MHz would allow new/curious testers possessing only FM-mode radios to stumble upon more contacts, increasing their chances of being drawn further into VHF+ contesting -- the primary aim of the Revitalization Committee.

The change will also be incorporated into the ARRL Field Day rules. This change eliminates Rule 1.8 in the

"General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz," with subsequent Rule 1 sections renumbered accordingly. —

Thanks to Dan Henderson, N1ND, Regulatory Information Manager/Acting Contest Manager (ARRL LETTER)

SPECTRUM SPECULATION

In the UK, Ofcom has announced plans to auction part of the radio spectrum formerly used for ham radio. Their hope is that part of the band could be utilized by ever-growing high-speed mobile broadband services. The auction won't happen until early 2016, and includes a total of 190MHz of high-capacity spectrum on 2.3 GHz and 3.4 GHz.

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20
Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915